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OFFICIALS MEET WITH VIDELA, DISCUSS RESTON REMARKS

FY230006 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1604 GMT 21 Aug 79 FY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 21 Aug (NA)--Argentine Foreign Minister Carlos Pastor and Argentine Ambassador in Washington Jorge Aja Espil today made an in-depth evaluation of U.S.-Argentine relations currently clouded by a conflict regarding the validity of human rights in Argentina. The meeting was held at approximately 1200 at the Foreign Ministry when Pastor arrived from Government House where he had discussed this same subject with President Jorge Videla.

At the Foreign Ministry Pastor met with Aja Espil, who arrived in Buenos Aires last night summoned by the Foreign Ministry to report on remarks made in Washington by the official State Department spokesman, Thomas Reston, who expressed "concern" over the court actions carried out in the offices of organizations which take note of charges of alleged disappearances of persons, and expressed doubts about the validity of human rights in Argentina. After making these remarks Reston had indicated that he was speaking on behalf of his government and not on his own. Due to this the Argentine Foreign Minister yesterday protested to Washington the U.S. interference in Argentina's domestic affairs.

Simultaneously with this protest Reston made new remarks mentioning the possibility of there being "clandestine prisons" in Argentina, although he said this report could be neither confirmed nor refuted by the U.S. Embassy in Argentina, and that it had been instructed to conduct an in-depth investigation in this regard. Apparently these new remarks today moved President Videla to hold talks with Pastor regarding this subject and to instruct him on how he should deal with the matter.

Information was released officially at the end of the meeting between Videla and Pastor to the effect that the foreign minister would provide a broad report on the situation with the United States this afternoon. Later Government House indicated that Pastor was not yet ready to make such a report because he was still awaiting new data to provide the press with proper answers to their questions regarding the situation.

TELAM Comments

FY251711 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2100 GMT 23 Aug 79 FY

[From the "Today and Today" section: "The Reston Case"]

[Text] Tom Reston, the spokesman for the United States Department of State, has corrected the statement he made last Monday attacking the Argentine Government and injuring the whole country. It must be said that the correction is only intended to dispel the impression that his statement of last Monday amounted to a case of interference in Argentina's internal affairs.

His correction, however, was prompted by the Argentine Government's strong protest to the U.S. Government over Reston's attitude. Therefore the U.S. spokesman is not acting of his own accord but under the pressure of circumstances. It is worth recalling that Reston made his statement on the spur of the moment and that he then went as far as talking about an investigation to be made by the U.S. ambassador in Buenos Aires of the purported existence of political prisoners, murders and clandestine jails. Now, resorting to a semantic exercise, Reston says that he did not speak of an investigation, but of an inquiry. But this does not change much, nor does it retract some other offensive phrases.

The Reston case merely illustrates a procedure very frequently used in the United States, especially when broadsides are hurled at other countries to create a smoke-screen intended to hide inconsistencies on the domestic front. But this procedure can be habit-forming, and its danger was opportunely averted by the Argentine protest. Excuses are always acceptable, but making a trivial pretext about one word in place of another is not. There are misunderstandings which can be useful when there is trouble on the domestic front but which cannot help when the firm principles of another sovereign nation have been injured.

U.S. BEHAVIOR NOT FOLLOWING 'DIPLOMATIC STYLE'

PY241928 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1520 GMT 21 Aug 79 PY

[From the "Today and Today" section: "Diplomacy"]

[Text] A special pattern of behavior that exists as a guarantee of good relations between nations is called diplomatic style. For example, there is a certain caution that prevents, in discussions of topics in which vital interests of any type are in play, frictions which would disturb cordiality. Diplomatic style also implies the defense of the citizens and institutions of a country, the constant rapprochement between countries and, of course, the syncronization of political, social and human outlooks, intended to promote greater understanding and mutual respect.

Attention is called to the fact that these basic principles have been distorted in respect to current relations between Argentina and the United States. And they become even more distorted when this situation is caused by the immoderate attitudes of the northern country, where there has been a loss of objectivity concerning Argentine reality, so much so that ordinary officials of higher or lower rank are issuing statements which make the situation one of unexplainable interference in the internal affairs of our country.

Matters have reached such an extreme that there is an intention to organize an investigation about the existence of political prisoners, torture, murder and, as a corollary, of clandestine prisons. Once more, human rights is the pretext for this unwonted stand, to which has now been added a strange urge to foresee difficulties for the inter-American commission which will visit us next month.

The arguments that have been brandished cannot stand the slightest analysis because they are the products of the thousands of lies which have been flung at Argentina and its government internationally. It causes amazement that credit has been given to simple, irresponsible accusations precisely when the aforementioned visit is about to take place in response to an invitation made by the Argentine authorities, who are disposed toward discrediting the lies of which a nasty antiprestige campaign is composed.

The easy and comfortable term of political prisoner to describe any type of subversive criminal is firing the northern attacks against our country. It is now time to ask if the people arrested for the Kennedy assassination or the individual who has just been arrested for an alleged attack against Carter are political prisoners.

Argentina has officially countered the insolent spokesmen. It has already put the truth at the disposal of that human rights commission. This is the framework of a reality which is enough to stop the attacks and the interference, which, by altering the diplomatic style, imply harmful intentions for Argentine sovereignty.

INTERIOR MINISTER DISCUSSES IHRC, MISSING PERSONS

PY231834 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0215 GMT 23 Aug 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 22 Aug (TELAM)--The interior minister today announced that the national executive branch has decided to normalize the status of a certain number of Argentine families affected by the extended absence and the lack of knowledge of the whereabouts of some of their members resulting from the serious events which took place in Argentina recently. This will be done by means of a law that is about to be approved.

Gen Albano Eduardo Harguindeguy held a press conference during which he released the text of another draft law which will also eventually be approved, like the first one, by the Legislative Advisory Commission [CAL]. The latter law deals with the absence of persons from their homes or residences within the nation, without being heard from, for 1 year.

By this latter law, which, like the former, is of an exceptional character, those who have recognized legal rights to pensions, retirement pay, or nontaxable earnings, subject to the death of the missing person, will be able to exercise this right in the manner prescribed by this law.

The interior minister told the journalists that the texts of these laws might be amended by the CAL, but the spirit will remain unchanged. General Harguindeguy said that these laws will fill a vacuum the existence of which no one can deny. Basic humanitarian reasons make it necessary to deal once and for all with this situation and to solve the family problems which it entails, according to one of the paragraphs of the note attached to the draft laws.

The press conference held by the interior minister took place in the Shield Hall of this ministry and was attended by almost 50 journalists, who were divided between those accredited to the presidency and foreign correspondents. The meeting started at 1805 and, after greeting the journalists, the minister--who was accompanied by the public information secretary, Brig Gen Antonio Llamas, and the interior under secretary, Col Jose David Ruiz Palacios, Ret--smilingly said: "Please sit down, gentlemen. Today I will be the host because lately I have been talking either out of the Government House or upstairs, in your room. I will discuss four subjects, four issues of primary importance at this point in the life of the country. They are specifically related to the visit which the OAS Inter-American Human Rights Commission [IHRC] will make to this country and to certain legal measures which the executive branch will implement soon in connection with human rights. I will also take advantage of this opportunity to discuss the status of those arrested and at the disposal of the executive branch."

On the subject of the IHRC visit, the interior minister recalled that it will take place next month in response to an invitation issued by the Argentine Government in 1978 and reiterated later. This commission will arrive in Buenos Aires between 6 and 20 September and will be guaranteed freedom of action throughout the national territory. It will be able to travel freely and meet with whomever it wants, and the government will supply it with whatever documents it may require. The members of the IHRC, the press and foreign governments will also receive a bulky official document currently being printed which deals with terrorist aggressions in Argentina. It has 2,000 volumes published in English and Spanish.

The minister explained that "the IHRC is a permanent OAS body which answers to all nations and not to just some of them, as it would seem from certain reports from abroad. Some seek advantage and want to control the commission and speak of rights which some countries may have to interfere in or to investigate other countries. By the same token we can one day ask our embassy in the United States to investigate the activities of the Ku Klux Klan or one of their leftist organizations we all know about."

"These insolent remarks which are being made abroad could provide the only obstacle which the IHRC might encounter here, because they give rise to disgust. But we are certain that this will not happen, because we are a sovereign and respectful country. The members of the IHRC will receive at all times our support and help to allow them to work, travel, visit and question with absolute freedom.

"I have here a paper with everything we had agreed upon with IHRC Secretary Vargas Carreno, who visited our country recently. The commission will visit Buenos Aires, Cordoba, Tucuman and Rawson, but the members will be free to go wherever they want. As interior minister I told them that here they would not need any protection to travel by day or night, but if they ask for it we will give it to them. They will have access to prisons; they will be able to meet with the inmates and question them in private; they will be free to visit military and police buildings. In the provinces, the governors have been specifically instructed to facilitate their task, and as far as judges are concerned, it is up to the Supreme Court."

After other remarks to the effect that Argentina would provide the IHRC with full guarantees and that the government would supply everything the commission asked for, General Harguindeguy discussed two exceptional laws which the president of the nation will sign soon, and a decree which is also about to be approved and which deals with the creation of an interministry commission to advise the interior minister on personal freedom and security.

According to the draft the minister read, which remains to be approved by the CAL, a person whose disappearance from his home or place of residence without any further news was duly reported between 6 November 1974--when the state of siege was declared by Decree No 1368/74--and the date of issuance of this law, will be declared presumably dead. The declaration of presumed death will be issued by the federal judge with jurisdiction over the last place of residence of the missing person.

The other law, also still to be approved by the CAL, provides that the absence of a person from his home or place of residence within the nation, without there being any news from said person for 1 year, empowers those who have legitimate rights to pensions, retirement pay or nontaxable earnings, subject to the death of the missing person, to exercise this right in the manner prescribed by this law. The interested parties will have to present a court certificate to prove that the disappearance has been reported, that the legal steps have been taken, and that actions were implemented to discover the fate of the missing person.

INTERIOR MINISTRY COMMUNIQUE ON DETENTIONS, RELEASES

PY231737 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 23 Aug 79 PY

[Relay from Government House]

[Text] The Interior Ministry has released a communique regarding the position of persons who are at the disposal of the national executive branch which indicates options granted and expulsion as of 22 August, as well as the status of other people.

The communique indicates that there are 166 persons under supervised freedom and 10 under house arrest, that options were granted to 746 persons, and that 195 persons have been expelled from the country. It also indicates that 1,117 persons remain at the disposal of the executive branch and are being held in various prisons.

The communique stresses that between 15 and 22 August the following occurred: 10 persons were released under supervised freedom; 50 persons were released from the disposal of the executive branch; 4 persons were expelled; and 10 options were granted.

AIR FORCE COMMANDER GRAFFIGNA DISCUSSES FOREIGN CRITICISMS

PY241233 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1615 GMT 23 Aug 79 PY

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 23 Aug (NA)--Argentine Air Force Commander Omar Graffigna has reasserted that the armed forces will not perpetuate itself in power but also that it will not hand power over before the established objectives are achieved "because we are not willing to waste all the efforts we have made nor abandon the enterprise we have undertaken."

Graffigna spoke today at the monthly luncheon held by the Argentine Businessmen's Development Institute (IDEA) at the Plaza Hotel. In his speech he discussed several aspects of the national situation.

He said that those who lead the present process "are willing to exercise the power we have" but "without unnecessarily extending the deadlines. On the contrary, we want to make all adjustments that are feasible without hindering the established objectives." He added that these objectives "must be achieved without fail."

Later he discussed the charges that were recently made abroad--among them those of U.S. Department of State spokesman Thomas Reston. He noted that "temporary clouds--or a manifestation of the sacred right to disagree, or a misunderstanding--are lately striking at our flanks with unjust attacks that come from governments of friendly countries, which, because they are not now well informed, are prey to the slanders which bad Argentines spread in uninformed ears."

He stated that criticism from abroad "will not make us lose our calmness or affect our love for freedom, which is our supreme value." He added: "In those friendly nations there are men who make mistakes. They are permitted to make these mistakes; this is one of the virtues of freedom. But this virtue is constantly risking the destiny of freedom. Those who love it, therefore, are obliged to be on permanent alert."

Graffigna later added: "It must be understood that our country is being attacked from several foreign blocs and for different reasons. Some want to isolate Argentina and thus obtain a quick electoral solution which will favor certain objectives." He added: "This would mean the end of the process, and the result would be a return to social, economic and political chaos and a new outbreak of subversion, perhaps with more violence than before."

SONODA CONCLUDES OFFICIAL VISIT, LEAVES FOR BRAZIL

OW250030 Tokyo KYODO in English 0003 GMT 25 Aug 79 OW

[Text] Buenos Aires, Aug 24, KYODO--Japanese Foreign Minister Sunao Sonoda left here Friday evening (Saturday morning Japan time) for Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, after winding up his two-day official visit to Argentina. Sonoda's current tour of six Latin American countries has already taken him to Brazil, but he is visiting Rio de Janeiro for a two-day rest. From there he will proceed to Venezuela, the last stop on his official itinerary. Before leaving here, Sonoda received an honorary doctorate degree from the University of Buenos Aires.

U.S. GOVERNMENT'S INCONSISTENCY ON SEA RIGHTS CRITICIZED

PY251829 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 25 Aug 79 PY

[Newton Carlos commentary]

[Text] It is important to clarify the concept of innocent passage when referring to the transit of warships because it involves defining each country's rights over the sea, one of today's most complex international issues, since a huge, still unexplored portion of the earth--three-fourths--is under water.

The Pentagon has ordered U.S. ships to observe only the 3-mile territorial sea limit and to avail themselves of the rights of innocent passage up to the 12-mile limit. The Pentagon believes that agreeing to the 12-mile territorial sea limit would mean placing more than 100 straits--which are now international waters--under the control of individual countries. Not even the U.S. State Department, which is responsible for U.S. foreign policy, was able to understand the Pentagon's move. Brazil, like many Latin American countries, observes the 200-mile limit. The Brazilian Foreign Ministry yesterday reacted ironically to all this by noting that Brazil will not consider this issue again until the Pentagon and the State Department reach an agreement. Thus, there is growing confusion within the Carter administration.

PAPER FAULTS CARTER'S HANDLING OF PALESTINIAN QUESTION

PY250307 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 24 Aug 79 p 3 PY

[From the "Notes and Information" page: "Carter's Improvisations in the Middle East"]

[Excerpt] President Jimmy Carter is running the risk of jeopardizing or even possibly of sinking the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty, which is one of the few political cards he holds, with a Middle East diplomacy characterized by hesitation, ambiguity and contradictions. Following the slip made by Andrew Young in meeting with a member of the PLO, which caused his dismissal, the Carter government decided to present a resolution supporting the rights of the Palestinians at the UN Security Council. At best, this was an ambiguous move since nobody can deny the Palestinians their legitimate rights which, according to them, includes "the right to wipe the Jewish State off the map."

The unfortunate U.S. initiative elicited the outright opposition not only of Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin, as could be expected, but also that of Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat, which surprised the White House. In the wake of this double rejection, a dangerous division emerged among the close advisers of the U.S. President. Carter then decided to reverse his decision 180 degrees and ordered his UN delegation to veto a proposal submitted to the UN Security Council by Arab and Third World countries, a proposal asking for "national self-determination, sovereignty and independence" for the Palestinians, but without expressly mentioning the creation of a Palestinian state or referring to the PLO as the only representative of the Palestinians.

By the way, not even the Israeli State denies in principle the right to national self-determination, sovereignty and independence of the Palestinians as long as it does not jeopardize the Jewish right to national self-determination, sovereignty and independence. If Carter's advisers were not so lacking in knowledge about Middle East problems, they would not be so surprised at As-Sadat's opposition to the U.S. plan to support the Palestinians' right in the first place and, in the second place, they would discover an elementary fact that can be exploited by inspiring Washington to adopt a less rudimentary diplomacy in that delicate region.

The fact is that the Arab countries, even the most radical ones, feel comfortable in proposing the creation of a Palestinian state next door to Israel, because they know very well that the Jewish State will never agree to such a proposal. If a suggestion were made that the Palestinian state be created closer to the Persian Gulf than to the Mediterranean Sea, the Jewish State would no longer have reasons to reject it, but the Arab countries would be the first to show little enthusiasm for the idea. After all, they have not forgotten--as the United States seems to--that among the peaceful and hardworking Palestinian people are terrorist organizations that have already created serious difficulties for brotherly countries such as Jordan, Egypt, Syria and Lebanon, which has been totally destroyed.

KWU ACCUSED OF OWNING 25 PERCENT OF NUCLEN SHARES

PY241212 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 23 Aug 79 p 21 PY

[Excerpts] Sao Paulo--The following is the text of the item which prompted the federal police to seize yesterday's issue of the GAZETA MERCANTIL:

Twenty-five percent of the NUCLEN [NUCLEBRAS Engineering Inc] shares are owned by the Kraftwerk Union [KWU] and 75 percent by NUCLEBRAS. However, to compensate for the technological contribution of the KWU, that German company has actual control of NUCLEN, the NUCLEBRAS subsidiary.

Among other things, that control is insured by the fact that the most important decisions always have to be made unanimously in the executive board or in the administrative council or in the general assembly. Although three positions in the executive board are filled by NUCLEBRAS, the two key position--the technical and the commercial directorates--are filled by the KWU.

The three Brazilian members of the executive board, even the president and the superintendent, have very limited room for action. The four voting representatives in the technical commission are Germans, and NUCLEBRAS can only appoint a nonvoting president. This commission has the final say in all decisions of a technical nature, and its view prevails in cases of disagreement with the executive board of NUCLEN. These provisions are written into the shareholders agreement signed between NUCLEBRAS and the KWU on 17 December 1975 as one of the instruments complementary to the Brazilian-FRG nuclear agreement signed in 1974 [as published].

Another point included in the shareholders agreement refers to the commitment by Brazil to buy equipment for its nuclear plants from the KWU. According to article 12, "For the fist four nuclear plants, excluding Angra 1, all imported equipment will be supplied by the KWU exclusively. For the rest of the program, the KWU, on similar conditions, will be given preference in supplying all imported equipment."

Just as the shareholders' agreements signed on similar terms--that of the Tubarao steel project in particular--the NUCLEN shareholders agreement provides that any modification in the company's statutes, "including an increase in capital, requires an understanding between the partners." This insures for the KWU strict compliance with the clauses agreed to in 1975.

Regarding the holding in NUCLEN stock, Article 4, by the way, provides that "should the KWU participation drop below 25 percent due to capital increases not subscribed by the KWU, the KWU will nonetheless maintain all its rights and obligations."

The shareholders agreement has provisions allowing any of the partners to denounce it and, although the agreement's duration is indefinite, denunciation can be done through the traditional 2-year advance notification. "However, the partners agree not to denounce the agreement before the transfer of responsibility takes place," in accordance with Article 15.

Article 15 establishes the conditions in which the Brazilian nuclear program is to be transferred to national control, and these imply modifications in the management of NUCLEN and cancellation of KWU rights and obligations. But a clause reduces that possibility to a minimum. It reads: "Any change requires the agreement of both partners, and it should in no way reduce the control by and technical responsibilities of KWU over projects and services covered by joint NUCLEN-KWU guarantee." The clause does contain the observation that there should be no "unreasonable" opposition to such agreement.

SUPERIOR MILITARY COURT ANNOUNCES AMNESTY BENEFICIARIES

PY251900 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 23 Aug 79 PY

[Text] Gen Reynaldo Melo de Almeida, president of the Superior Military Court, has reported that between 2,200 and 2,600 persons will be granted amnesty. This includes 17 of the 50 political prisoners. They could all be free next week if President Figueiredo enacts the amnesty law by Wednesday. General Melo de Almeida expressed his confidence that all, or virtually all, political prisoners would be released before the end of this year by means of presidential pardons.

COAL MINERS IN RIO GRANDE DO SUL HALT WORK

PY241247 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 22 Aug 79 p 14 PY

[Excerpt] Mine workers in Charqueda, Leao and Butia in the state of Rio Grande do Sul--2,150 of them--have gone on strike, demanding a 70-percent salary increase. One hundred and twenty miners from Candiota in Bage intend to halt work today, making identical demands. These demands were submitted to the National Petroleum Council, which set coal prices.

TRUCK DRIVERS IN RECIFE CALL STRIKE

PY241248 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 22 Aug 79 p 14 PY

[Excerpt] At a union general assembly, truck drivers in Recife decided to go on strike yesterday. Many truck drivers were not aware of the union decision, and at least 50 percent of them reported to work. More truck drivers should join the strike today since their employers have not yet reached agreement on a counterproposal.

BRIEFS

CONTRACT FOR OIL EXPLORATION--Rio de Janeiro, 20 Aug--Three contracts for oil exploration in the Amazon, near the Madera River, were signed tocay. These contracts were signed by the Brazilian Petroleum Corporation (PETROBRAS) and a consortium made up of Shell exploration services and the PECTEN Brazil Amazon Company. [Paris AFP in Spanish 2215 GMT 20 Aug 79 PY]

SOMOZA WILL RETURN 'TO SAVE NICARAGUA FROM COMMUNISM'

PA261714 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1557 GMT 26 Aug 79 PA

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 26 Aug (EFE)--Anastasio Somoza, the overthrown president of Nicaragua, has told a local newspaper that he is not a genocidal dictator and that he will return to his country to save it from communism. In an interview published here today in LA TERCERA, Somoza also said that he had been invited to visit Chile because President Augusto Pinochet is "a good friend of mine."

Somoza spoke to Adrian Ruben Valenzuela, special correspondent of the Santiago paper in Asuncion, to whom he gave a lengthy exclusive interview. "I continue being a general of the Republic of Nicaragua, Somoza told LA TERCERA, "and I am going to return to my country to save it from communism. They will end up begging me on their knees to return."

Concerning the junta of national reconstruction, Somoza told LA TERCERA: "Itis made up of three communists and two moderates, namely, Violeta de Chamorro and Mr Robelo. The present military commanders in Nicaragua were trained in Cuba."

Somoza added that in order to abandon his country, he had made a deal with the United States, "which was broken." He concluded: "The U.S. Government betrayed me by exhorting other countries not to provide us with munitions. I will return to my country whenever the people ask me to do so, and those who turned their backs on me will have to come to me again."

SECRET AGREEMENT WITH U.S. ON LETELIER CASE REVEALED

PY250308 Paris AFP in Spanish 2339 GMT 24 Aug 79 PY

[Excerpts] Santiago, Chile, 24 Aug (AFP)--A high-ranking Chilean Government official today confessed his involvement in a secret agreement between the United States and Chile over the investigations into the "Letelier case." In that agreement, signed on 7 April 1978, the two governments agreed to secretly exchange information on the proceedings concerning the assassination of former Chilean socialist Foreign Minister Orlando Letelier, who was exiled to Washington.

Commander Enrique Montero, under secretary of the Interior Ministry, acknowledged his signature onthe agreement when he testified today before the Supreme Court judges who will issue a decision on the extradition request.

FOREIGN MINISTER TO TOUR WEST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

PY242326 Paris AFP in Spanish 2251 GMT 24 Aug 79 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile 24 Aug (AFP)--It was reported here today that Chilean Foreign Minister Hernan Cubillos will start a tour of West European countries on 1 September. An official communique noted that Cubillos will be the official guest of the governments of the FRG, Spain and France. He will make a private visit to Great Britain.

CHURCH URGES GOVERNMENT TO RESPECT LAW, RESTORE JUSTICE

PY250242 Paris AFP in Spanish 2137 GMT 22 Aug 79 PY

[Excerpts] Santiago, Chile 22 Aug (AFP)--The Chilean Catholic Church urged the military government today "to respect the law" and appealed to judges to "restore justice." It was reported that the Church hierarchy reacted in this manner to the death of Professor Fernando Alvarez Santiganez who reportedly died from torture inflicted on him by security agents.

PANAMANIAN PRESIDENT ENDS VISIT, DECLARATION SIGNED

Joint News Conference

PA241437 Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 2023 GMT 23 Aug 79 PA

[News conference held by Colombian President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala and Panamanian President Aristides Royo at Cordoba Departmental Assembly in Monteria at conclusion of Royo's visit to Colombia--live]

[Excerpts] [Question] [Words indistinct] the nonalined summit next week in Havana, what position will Colombia take and what specific proposals will it present?

[Turbay] Colombia's stand with regard to the nonalined movement is precise, clear and concise. Obviously the subject was discussed with President Tito during my recent visit to Yugoslavia and it was the subject of a declaration whose basic tenets have been reiterated in the joint declaration signed with President Royo. It is a matter of returning to the original roots of the nonalined movement as conceived by Nehru, 'Abd an-Nasir and Marshal Tito himself.

The movement has become distorted; many powers are seeking to make the movement their ally, without having it be true to its name but still having it be called "nonalined." This is a way to distort the purpose of the movement which can contribute effectively to the maintenance of world peace.

The Colombian foreign minister will go to the nonalined conference as an observer and, as far as I know, the foreign ministers of the other Andean countries will be in the same position. Panama will have an advantage over us at the conference because it is a member in full standing while we are only observers, and we will continue to be observers for some time until we can judge accurately whether the movement is truly nonalined or whether it is one of the alined movements which uses the name as a front.

Therefore, the position Colombia will take in Havana will be that of expressing its respect for a movement which, if it maintains the nature conceived by its founders, would be an effective mediating factor in the confrontation between the two worlds [as heard] struggle for the favor of world opinion.

[Question] We would like to take this opportunity to also ask President Royo what Panama's position will be at the summit conference.

[Royo] We are going to reiterate something that has been a principle of Panama's foreign policy. We share President Turbay Ayala's feeling that the nonalined principles are truly the concepts that should prevail, not only at the conference but also in the attitude and behavior of each of the member countries of the movement, and that there should not be a distortion of the principles that gave birth to that movement. For this reason, that will also be one of Panama's principles.

Another position to be held by Panama--I am going to make a preliminary announcement of this now, but we will elaborate on it in Havana--will be a call to strengthen the Latin American region and to attempt to include all the countries of Latin America, not only in the economic field but also in other fields. We will discuss this matter to some extent.

We are also going to touch on matters related to the Panama Canal because, at the time of the nonalined meeting, the U.S. Congress will be meeting to decide on the implementation of legislation for the treaties.

We are also going to try to call attention to the fact that the nonalined movement issues many resolutions but very few of them are implemented. We are going to make an effort to see that fewer are issued and more are implemented.

[Question] A question by the Press Office of the Presidency of the Republic of Colombia for President Royo: Next year is the deadline for a decision on whether the Latin American Free Trade Association [LAFTA] will be abolished. Would Panama support the continuance of the organization in its present status?

[Royo] I am not aware of any real or serious movement to abolish LAFTA, but it should be reformed. It should be improved to meet the needs of our countries and there should be an attempt to improve it to promote the defense of our products against the transnationals and the big powers. In this regard we feel that perhaps it should be improved.

[Question] Oscar Dominguez of SUPERNOTICIAS, Bogota--a question for President Royo. Mr President, perhaps as former President Lopez said in a message to the Congress in 1975, the Ozores-Uribe Vargas Treaty would have to be ratified by the people of your country. Also what is your answer to those who say that Panama is not capable of operating the canal properly?

[Royo] In the first place, President Turbay and I, through the two foreign ministers who signed the Ozores-Uribe Vargas Treaty, have taken the proper actions with regard to the legislatures of the two countries. We signed the treaty and it will later have to be subjected to the constitutional processes in Colombia and Panama. It has to be presented for ratification by our assemblies. In Colombia I believe it is up to the Senate; in Panama it is the National Assembly of Corregimiento representatives. Our Assembly begins sessions on (?11 October) and on (?12 October) we will present the treaty to the Assembly. [applause]

As to whether Panama will manage the canal efficiently, I would say that we will probably run it better than the North Americans did. There are several reasons for this. First, this natural resource is ours and its administration will gradually be turned over to us. I believe the person who knows that he owns a resource administers it better than a person who does it under terms of a rental contract. Additionally, the canal was completed in 1914. It has a (?sophisticated) computer system but the system used by our national electric system is 10 times more sophisticated and more complicated than the canal's and it is administered solely by Panamanians. [applause]

Moreover, we do not want to keep this natural resource for ourselves; we want to share it with other Latin American countries. [applause] the joint declaration contains--it is not very clear, but it is there--an invitation to Colombia to anticipate in the new development of the former Canal Zone, through the Latin American Economic System, through dialog [as heard], through LAFTA, through the mechanisms available in the various countries. We will invite all the countries to contribute to the development of the former Canal Zone, and we are confident that Colombia, in view of its industrial and commercial development, will be able to contribute a great deal to this. [applause]

[Question] Francisco Tulande of RCN [Radio Cadena Nacional], Colombia. I would like to ask the presidents if--in the event the United States maintains its position of disregarding the 200-mile territorial sea limit--there will be a unified position against the United States [words indistinct] or if there will be recourse to other mechanisms to face up to the U.S. position of recognizing only 3 miles.

[Turbay] We do not defend our theses with threats or with bellicose confrontations. We are persuasive. We have moral power. We wish to defend our rights in all forums. Of course we have said that the 200 miles correspond, in our cases--those of Panama and Colombia--to laws made by our congresses in full exercise of our sovereignty. It is our obligation to defend this and to commit the greatest possible number of countries to the defense of this principle which is already being accepted in all areas. In South America in particular, most of the countries belong to what is called the South Pacific Commission, and now his excellency the president of Panama has expressed to us his country's intention of also joining the commission which seeks to defend the 200-mile territorial limit. We will persist. We will knock on all doors. We will speak at all conferences and we will even make the necessary diplomatic efforts to the government in Washington, the White House, to make it known that our position is a firm one, based on solid motives which are in line with the configuration of the new Law of the Sea.

We will be unyielding on this. It is our intention to inform the United States of our countries' position. Now the thesis of the 3-mile territorial limit, or of the 12 miles which are now being mentioned, is not in line with the evolution of the Law of the Sea. It was valid before it was known what extraordinary resources are available in the sea, resources which must be placed at the service of the coastal countries. Those resources must be placed at the service of the international community.

Our position on the Law of the Sea is well known. We will not give it up but we do not believe that it will be the cause of a third world war but rather the beginning of a new confrontation in the diplomatic sphere.

[Royo] I subscribe to the words of my colleague, adding only that in effect our actions have to be primarily [words indistinct] practical. Although these things should not be said, I am not ashamed to say them. We Panamanians are very proud of not having an army, but I can tell you about our navy: we have two launches--two patrol launches. One is called the "Ligia Elena" and the other in the "Panquiaco." Naturally our two launches cannot fight the North Americans. However, we do feel that it is one thing for a vessel to have trouble with its radar or its compass and for it to lose its way and enter our 200-miles limit; it is another thing for a nation to arrogantly say that it does not recognize Panama's 200-mile limit and that, consequently, it can enter Panamanian waters to fish. Whenever we catch a boat fishing under those circumstances, we will fine it and confiscate the catch. [words indistinct] that is precisely why we feel that we are part of the nonalined movement and that is why we in Panama are anti-imperialist.

Text of Monteria Declaration

PA252328 Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 24 Aug 79 p 5-A PA

["Monteria Declaration" signed by Colombian President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala and Panamanian President Aristides Royo, in Monteria, Colombia, 23 August]

[Text] The presidents of the Republic of Panama, Aristides Royo, and Colombia, Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala, meeting in the City of Monteria for the purpose of strengthening the bonds of traditional friendship between their two countries and, as a result of the conversations between the two chiefs of state and their delegations, state:

Their deep satisfaction over the signing yesterday of the Ozores-Uribe Vargas Treaty on Panama's granting to the Republic of Colombia benefits relative to the use of the Panamanian interoceanic waterway. This instrument, which is the expression of the frank and determined cooperation of two brotherly and friendly nations who have worked jointly for achievement of the objectives of autonomy, nonintervention and political independence of states, constitutes another element in their firm and determined unity for achievement of their common objectives of continental solidarity.

Their willingness to continue offering political support for construction of the Darien Gap highway on both sides of the border confirm their irrevocable determination to building the project and commit their respective governments to successful completion of this project which has been the ideal of all nations of America for several decades and is the most outstanding communication project on the continent.

To this end, the two governments have created a liaison committee that will establish close and active cooperation and coordination in the financial, technical, social and sanitation aspects of the highway project in order to step up its completion.

Similarly, in view of the failure by the United States to comply with agreements signed separately with Colombia and Panama on 6 May 1971 in which it pledged to absorb two-thirds of the cost of the project, the two governments decided to urge the United States to fulfill its agreements in order to prevent delaying the project due to increased costs, postponing development of the area and endangering the large investments that have already been made.

After completing an air reconnaissance of the Darien area yesterday, the two presidents decided to establish a forest reserve in the border region between the two countries in order to preserve the environment and its water reserves. The appropriate organizations of each of the two governments will carry out the necessary coordination for prompt completion of this project.

The two presidents announced their decision to establish a joint committee of cooperation and frontier development to make recommendations to the respective governments regarding the resources needed to effect a harmonious and balanced development of the border area. To this end, they will establish the foundation of this cooperation and border development during a meeting to be held soon in the City of Quibdo. A subsequent meeting will be held in Yaviza, Panama.

After a careful analysis of the process by which the Republic of Panama claimed the Canal Zone and the support Panama received from the peoples of Latin America, the two presidents stated that the treaty implementation laws which are to be issued by the U.S. Congress must necessarily uphold the letter and spirit of the signed and ratified treaties to achieve a consistent fulfillment of the unalterable aspiration of the Panamanian people--which is also the aspiration of the Latin American people--that is, that Panama will be able to exercise sovereignty fully over all its national territory.

The president of Colombia stated his country's intention to sign the protocol of the treaty on the permanent neutrality and operation of the Panama Canal which will be opened for the signatures of all the world's states beginning on the date the treaty goes into effect.

The two presidents express their concern over the U.S. Government's announced decision to disregard the establishment by certain states of zones of sovereignty over their natural resources for a distance of up to 200 miles. The U.S. position runs contrary to the new international Law of the Sea and the laws of our respective countries.

They also reiterate their determination to exercise sovereignty and jurisdiction over the natural resources existing in the seas claimed by each of their countries and to promote the preservation of the sea environment by adopting measures against pollution and deterioration.

They noted the importance of the sixth summit conference of nonalined countries which will be held in Latin America for the first time, and agreed on the urgent need for the principles of true nonalinement to be reaffirmed there as a basis for world peace and for more just international relations. Colombia offered its support for the Republic of Panama--which is a member in full standing and which has remained unalterably true to those principles--to become a part of the movement's Coordinating Bureau.

The Monteria meeting serves as a fundamental point of reference for the two countries and takes place following events which led to the elimination of the Somozist regime in Nicaragua and the establishment of the junta of the Government of National Reconstruction.

In view of the urgent need for contributions to the process of democratic recovery of that fraternal country, the two presidents appeal to all sectors in the hemisphere to extend effective support to the process of democratic, institutional and economic reconstruction of the Republic of Nicaragua.

Observing Latin American politics, the two presidents noted progress in the area of democracy in certain countries and decided to express their hope that the budding democracies in several nations will achieve full development in the protection of individual rights as well as in the guarantee of public freedoms.

The two presidents also agreed on the importance of having the policies of the Andean Group countries, in concord with the policies of the Republic of Panama, serve as a basis for actions that will bring about, in the least possible time, a commitment to a new international economic order.

Finally, Panamanian President Dr Aristides Royo extended a very special invitation to President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala to visit the Republic of Panama on 1 October 1979, the date on which important ceremonies will be held to mark the reversion of certain areas and installations to the full sovereignty of Panama under the terms of the Torrijos-Carter treaty.

President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala accepted the invitation with pleasure. On expressing his appreciation for this distinction, he said this will be an appropriate occasion on which to manifest to the Panamanian people Colombia's solidarity at such a momentous time in their history.

NICARAGUAN INTERIOR MINISTER BORGE TO ARRIVE 27 AUG

PA241558 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 Aug 79 PA

[Text] Bogota--Nicaraguan Interior Minister Tomas Borge will arrive here Monday, it has been announced officially. The government has invited the Sandinist minister to discuss a number of agreements.

NEW AMBASSADOR TO NICARAGUA APPOINTED

PA251237 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Apr 79 PA

[Text] Bogota--The government has appointed a new ambassador to Nicaragua, Fernando Navas de Brigard, who is presently Colombia's ambassador to Uruguay. Navas will replace Julio Rengifo [as heard] whose substitution had been requested by the Nicaraguan junta of national reconstruction when it assumed the government in the Central American country.

However, Foreign Minister Diego Uribe Vargas, in announcing Navas' appointment, said that the change at the Managua diplomatice mission is not related to the junta of reconstruction's request but to a request from Ambassador Rengifo who will be given another diplomatic post.

PROTESTS WAGED AGAINST HIGHER BUS FARES, LOW SALARIES

PA241657 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 Aug 79 PA

[Text] Bogota--The Colombian capital looks desolate at this hour because of the scarcity of public transportation resulting from yesterday's disturbances in which several persons were injured. In order to avoid further attacks by demonstrators, drivers have parked their vehicles and public transportation has diminished markedly despite the security measures by the military and police. People last night had to ride in trucks and other vehicles because buses were scarce after 1800, when the serious disturbances occurred.

Street disturbances in the major cities to protest spiraling inflation and the strikes currently being staged by a number of government offices are keeping the situation tense in Colombia. Disturbances and terrorism have been reported in the last few hours in Bogota, Medellin and Santa Marta.

In Bogota, the police report three buses burned and four passengers injured. The terrorists were protesting the transportation fare hikes authorized by the government.

In Santa Marta, police and students engaged in lengthy clashes. A university student was wounded by gunshot and 14 policemen were hospitalized after being stoned. The Santa Marta students were also protesting the fare hikes. Service was later suspended because bus owners feared the demonstrators would damage their vehicles.

In the past 2 days disturbances have also been reported in Medellin. These have been staged by university students dissatisfied with the fare and milk price hikes. Some 20 students have been arrested for creating disturbances and stoning vehicles.

Meanwhile, thousands of Finance Ministry employees have been on strike since Monday and have paralyzed the collection of taxes. The government employees, who legally cannot go on strike, are making a number of labor demands. The strike has seriously affected business activities here in Colombia, where evidence of payment of taxes--obtainable at the Finance Ministry--is always required.

In Sucre Department another strike, this one by health workers, has been suspended after strikers agreed with the Health Ministry that negotiations would be resumed on the basis of a list of demands.

The labor unions have warned that the climate of social agitation affecting the country results from the galloping inflation which was seriously deteriorated the workers' purchasing capacity. But the government has rejected labor leaders' demand for the immediate readjustment of wages and refused even to revise the minimum wage, currently equivalent to only 3,450 pesos a month.

In Bogota some 50 persons have been arrested as a result of a number of brief rock-throwing demonstrations staged by high school and university students protesting the wave of price hikes announced over the past few days. The arrested demonstrators were captured at the national university campus and in several neighborhoods in the southern sector of the capital, among them Ciudad Kennedy, Lucero Alto, Santa Lucia and the downtown area. It has been impossible to determine the exact number arrested because of the police and army's total silence. The army has had to launch a vast operation throughout Bogota aimed at preventing further incidents.

Armed Forces 'Prepared'

PA242358 Paris AFP in Spanish 1831 GMT 24 Aug 79 PA

[Excerpts] Bogota, 24 Aug (AFP)--The Colombian Armed Forces were quartered today and stated that they are prepared to put down any disturbances following a wave of unrest to protest the high cost of living, military spokesmen have reported. The streets of five major Colombian cities were the scene of stonings by students and workers during which about 14 police officers were injured and at least 100 rioters were arrested.

Some 16,000 Finance and Public Credit (Economy) Ministry workers went on strike today demanding pay raises but the government has said they are "not negotiable." The government also ordered public schools closed today as a means of avoiding street violence while the labor centrals are harassing the government because it authorized food price hikes.

In addition to the various social problems facing President Julio Cesar Turbay's administration, 21,000 inhabitants of Olaya Herrera in southern Narino Department announced a civic strike today. A townspeople's committee arrived in Bogota today to demand that the government pay attention to their problems and that Olaya Herrera be made a municipality. They said that if they are not heeded they will stage a civic strike.

There also was unrest in Bogota among municipal sanitation and power workers who are negotiating pay raises with the government. They have even resorted to not collecting trash and cutting off power supplies.

Governors Report Calm

PA242245 Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 24 Aug 79 PA

[Text] Bogota--All 22 governors reported this morning that total calm existed throughout the nation, explaining that the difficulties reported in the past few days in the wake of urban transport fare hikes have been totally overcome.

According to the governors of Neiva, Valle and Magdalena departments, where some public disturbances have been reported, everything is now under control and the climate of tension that had existed has disappeared. They announced that special security measures have been taken and that these will be maintained in order to prevent disturbances.

For their part, the Bogota police authorities have affirmed that the situation in the capital is totally normal and that the urban transport service is operating efficiently.

ARMY INSPECTOR GENERAL REPLACED, NEW COMMANDER NAMED

Inspector Garzon Dismissed

PA250347 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0333 GMT 24 Aug 79 PA

[Text] Bogota, 23 Aug (EFE)--Newspaper circles have learned that a change took place in the Colombian Armed Forces today when Army Inspector General Maj Gen Jaime Garzon Garavito was suddenly replaced.

Well-informed sources reported last week that Army General Commander Gen Jorge Robledo Pulido had requested his dismissal after a confrontation with Defense Minister Gen Luis Carlos Camacho Leyva concerning the promulgation of a disciplinary statute.

General Garzon Garavito, the same Bogota sources reported, was dismissed as he was conducting important investigations into the affairs of high-ranking armed forces officers.

Another important change reported was the promotion of Gen Fernando Landazabal Reyes as chief of the Joint General Staff, one of the most important positions within the armed forces.

Defense Ministry sources refused to comment on the changes but confirmed that the incumbent national defense minister will remain in office even though there will be some important changes in other command posts this year.

Robledo Replacement

PA250348 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Aug 79 PA

[Text] Bogota--Maj Gen Jose Gonzalo Forero Delgadillo this afternoon was sworn in as commander of the national army. He has replaced Gen Jorge Robledo Pulido.

President Turbay Ayala did not attend the change-of-command ceremony. The outgoing commander of the army, Gen Robledo, also failed to attend the ceremony. Absence apparently confirms reports to the effect that he was asked by the government to step down and that he did not do this of his own accord.

Forero and Defense Minister Gen Luis Carlos Camacho Leyva have stated they are investigating the alleged training of Colombian guerrillas on the border with Venezuela, in the Arauca Intendancy area. They have noted that the army has inflicted heavy losses on the guerrillas and is making efforts to eliminate them.

FOREIGN MINISTRY RELEASES DOCUMENT ON CUBAN RELATIONS

PA250410 Paris AFP in Spanish 2205 GMT 24 Aug 79 PA

[Text] Quito, 24 Aug (AFP)--The Foreign Ministry has officially announced that the Ecuadorean and Cuban Governments today officially established diplomatic relations after a 17-year suspension.

The document was signed by Ecuadorean Foreign Minister Alfredo Pareja Diezcanseco and Carlos Amat Flores, director for Latin American and Caribbean countries in the Cuban Foreign Ministry. The document was simultaneously released in Quito and Havana today.

In the document released here today, the two governments "reiterate their adherence to principles of international law regarding friendly relations and cooperation between states as established in the UN Charter. They also recognize that a greater development of relations between Ecuador and Cuba on the basis of those principles is of mutual interest to the two countries and their peoples."

"Therefore, inspired by respect for the political system of each state and the reciprocal desire to strengthen friendly relations and develop effective cooperation, the Ecuadorean and Cuban Governments have decided to reestablish diplomatic relations beginning 23 August," the document states.

The two governments also agreed to take the proper steps for reestablishing embassies in Havana and Quito and to exchange ambassadors in accordance with international law and practice.

The first trade-level contact between the two countries occurred on 16 August.

New Ambassador Appointed

PA250402 Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 2300 GMT 24 Aug 79 PA

[Text] According to official sources, Jorge Perez Concha, a journalist, founder and director of the newspaper LA RAZON and member of the Foreign Affairs Ministry's Consultative Council, was appointed ambassador to Cuba.

Ambassador Perez Concha will be leaving soon for Havana to reopen the Ecuadorean diplomatic mission and to make arrangements for the arrival of the official Ecuadorean delegation headed by Foreign Affairs Minister Alfredo Pareja Diezcanseco to the nonalined conference in September in the Cuban capital.

GOVERNMENT DENIES PERUVIAN BORDER INCIDENT

PA270342 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0121 GMT 27 Aug 79 PA

[Text] Quito, 26 Aug (EFE)--The government denied today that any border incident had occurred on 13 July between Ecuadorean and Peruvian soldiers.

A report published yesterday by EL UNIVERSO, published in Guayaquil, the country's main port, mentioned an attack by Peruvian Armed Forces on a small Ecuadorean garrison in the region between El Pincho and Los Encuentros, in the Condor Mountain Range, saying that 20 Ecuadorean soldiers had been killed in the attack.

The Ecuadorean foreign and national defense ministers in a joint communique expressed surprise and displeasure over the irresponsible manner in which incidents are invented in order to mislead public opinion in a matter linked to national sovereignty and sacred national interests. Such matters should be handled seriously and with the requisite ethics.

The communique adds that the two ministries, in accordance with the policy outlined by the constitutional president, reiterate their intention of maintaining relations with neighboring countries, a climate of mutual respect and the firm intention of vigorously implement- and honorably defending sovereign national interests.

ROLDOS ORDERS INVESTIGATION OF ADMINISTRATION CORRUPTION

PA262206 Paris AFP in Spanish 1637 GMT 26 Aug 79 PA

[Text] Quito, 26 Aug (AFP)--Ecuadorean President Jaime Roldos during a cabinet meeting asked his ministers to investigate the cases of administrative corruption that occurred during the 9 years of dictatorship in the country. He asked that the concerned authorities be immediately informed of their findings.

The president also asked that the job-seekers, who have been appearing in bunches in the past few days, be penalized. He noted that they make work impossible and create anxieties for the bureaucracy.

After evaluating the first 15 days of his administration with his ministers, the president adopted the following measures in favor of the popular sectors: the creation of people's drugstores and the distribution of sufficient medical supplies to health centers; incentive for the creation of people's building materials warehouses; the beginning of a viable price-control policy; the construction of 20 parks with sufficient space for physical recreation; a library and a puppet theater for children; coordination of public and private sector activities connected with peasant communities; and, along with the municipalities, pursuit of a solution to the urban transport problem since a gradual decrease in the number of public transport units is already noticeable.

MINISTER COMMENTS ON GOVERNMENT FUEL SUBSIDY

PA241840 Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 1255 GMT 24 Aug 79 PA

[Excerpt] Mauricio Davalos, minister of natural resources and energy, revealed that the Ecuadorean Government gives away more than 1,000 sucres a week in gasoline subsidies to automobile owners.

In his first talk with newsmen, he leveled serious charges concerning the irrational consumption and price of fuel. He noted that although it possess vast hydroelectric reserves, a large number of Ecuadorean powerplants use petroleum byproducts.

Regarding the consumption of gasoline, diesel and other fuels, the minister said that Ecuador imports approximately six percent of the fuel it needs. This importation is subsidized by more than 7.5 million sucres, which basically benefits automobile owners and industrialists, he said. Thus, the middle and upper classes are receiving resources which affect the redistribution of national income. But this is not the entire problem. The Ecuadorean Government's fuel subsidy is also being channeled into neighboring countries through an increasing flow of contraband, he added.

FOREIGN MINISTRY ISSUES COMMUNIQUE ON PATTERSON VISIT

PA242012 Caracas VENPRES in Spanish 0311 GMT 24 Aug 79 PA

[By Eliana Loza]

[Text] Caracas, 23 Aug (VENPRES)--During Jamaican Deputy Prime Minister Percival James Patterson's recent visit to Caracas, Venezuela and Jamaica agreed to make efforts to intensify their economic, technical, cultural and commercial cooperation.

According to a communique released today by the Venezuelan Foreign Ministry on Patterson's visit, he and the Venezuelan foreign minister agreed to hold the next meeting of the mixed Venezuelan-Jamaican commission as soon as possible, probably in Jamaica. During the visit, Patterson and Zambrano Velasco signed an air transport agreement establishing regular aviation services between the two countries.

According to the Foreign Ministry communique, the two officials reaffirmed each country's right to choose freely its own path to development without foreign interference.

The two parties examined the energy problem and agreed to begin government-to-government talks in connection with the supply of Venezuelan oil to Jamaica.

The Jamaican official expressed his acknowledgement of the measures adopted by Venezuela to help developing countries endure the impact of current and potential price increases on their economies.

Both Patterson and Zambrano stressed that the aspirations of all peoples are best achieved within the framework of a true democratic system and that truly representative institutions constitute guarantees for the exercise of freedom, human rights and the self-fulfillment of every individual. Both parties condemned human rights violations in the hemisphere and gave their firm support to the Inter-American Human Rights Commission and the recently created Inter-American Human Rights Court.

The two sides stressed the importance of the Latin American Economic System, the Andean Group and the Caribbean Community as instruments designed to complement and strengthen hemispheric integration.

Patterson officially invited Minister Zambrano Velasco to visit Jamaica. The invitation was accepted and a visit will be made sometime in the near future.

NEW OIL SALE CONTRACTS FOR TRANSNATIONALS DRAFTED

PA260146 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 22 Aug 79 p 1 PA

[Text] The Energy and Mines Ministry yesterday began drafting the new basis for negotiating oil sales contracts. Preliminary drafts of the new contracts by which Venezuela will sell oil to transnationals and other foreign clients were submitted at a meeting in Minister Humberto Calderon Berti's office. After this, the contracts will be formally drafted once they are thoroughly studied by Energy and Mines Ministry experts and approved by the minister.

It has been said that Venezuela will make radical changes in its oil sale terms, based on the current world situation and on its 4 years' experience since the oil industry was nationalized. In the meantime, Venezuela will maintain flexible margins and sufficient stocks in its oil sales.

GOVERNMENT REJECTS U.S. PROPOSAL FOR IXTOC UNO INDEMNITY TALKS

PA241835 Paris AFP in Spanish 0351 GMT 24 Aug 79 PA

[By Rene Flipo]

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 23 Aug (AFP)--The Mexican Government today rejected a U.S. request to begin talks on indemnity for damage caused by Ixtoc Uno's black tide in the Gulf of Mexico.

In a communique released tonight, the Foreign Secretariat announced that "there is no precedent in international law for responsibility on the part of either the Mexican Government or Petroleos Mexicanos (PEMEX). This declaration was released in the wake of a statement in Washington by Robert Krueger, special ambassador for U.S.-Mexican affairs. According to Krueger, the U.S. Government plans to ask Mexico for indemnity for the effects of Ixtoc Uno's oil on Texas beaches.

In the communique the Mexican Government shows its displeasure, observers noted, by stating that Krueger made this statement before Mexico could deliver a response to the United States. Therefore, the communique adds, Mexico will now publicly announce its decision. Following is the text of Mexico's response: "The Mexican Government is not willing to begin talks with the United States on the subject of its responsibility or eventual claims for possible damage to another state, its citizens or property resulting from the Ixtoc Uno accident."

According to the communique, the United States had asked Mexico "to begin talks on a number of topics connected with the effects of the Ixtoc Uno spill in the Gulf of Mexico," including matters connected with responsibility and possible alternatives to handling claims to compensate for "cleansing costs and damage to property and resources."

Lopez Portillo Spurns Indemnity Claims

PA251416 Paris AFP in Spanish 0417 GMT 25 Aug 79 PA

[Text] Oaxaca, Mexico, 24 Aug (AFP)--President Jose Lopez Portillo said here today: "Mexico cannot accept an unfairly applied law." When Mexico is involved we must pay for damages but not when another country is involved. Lopez Portillo was referring to the U.S. request made on Wednesday that the Mexican Government begin talks on a possible indemnity over the damages caused by an oil slick that has reached the Texas coast. The black tide apparently has resulted from the crude oil spilling from Ixtoc Uno, which "blew out" in the Gulf of Mexico and has spilled about 2 million barrels of oil into the sea.

"We will confront whatever occurs, however it occurs, with a clear conscience," Lopez Portillo stressed, while explaining that there is no juridical basis in international law for the U.S. claim. Lopez Portillo's reference to "an unfairly applied law" brought back memories of the time when Colorado River waters in the United States irreparably damaged arable land in the Mexicali valley. The U.S. Government waited years before correcting the situation and never paid any indemnity.

Decries 'Selective Justice'

PA261230 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2314 GMT 25 Aug 79 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 25 Aug (EFE)--President Jose Lopez Portillo has said here that Mexico will not permit the United States to apply "selective justice" in the case of alleged damage to Texas beaches caused by the Ixtoc Uno oil spill. "Under no circumstances can we yield to selective justice, with Mexico having to pay damages when other countries, in similar cases, would not have to do so," the president said.

Lopez Portillo explained that he knows his country's rights and he is certain that in the case of Ixtoc Uno the right thing has been done, and "even more than other countries have done in similar cases." Therefore, he said, "my conscience is clear in this regard."

The president said that the tactic used by Robert Krueger, special ambassador for Mexican-U.S. affairs, of publicizing a diplomatic message regarding a possible suit for damages caused by the oil spill was disconcerting. Lopez Portillo added that no protest has been filed with a court. He said that it was simply a proposal for a meeting, which this country has rejected.

Mexico has fulfilled all its international and national commitments in the "unfortunate case of Ixtoc Uno," the chief of state said. He also reiterated that the oil spill occurred accidentally and that no one could be blamed for it. Explaining in detail the efforts made to control the Ixtoc Uno, which has been burning for over 80 days, Lopez Portillo said: "I believe that never in the history of accidents of this kind has a country done so much to solve the problem."

The president said that the U.S. claim, which would apparently amount to some $2 million or $3 million, is not important in itself. "What is important in these cases is the law," he said. Citing precedents of such claims in international law, Lopez Portillo mentioned the case of three Japanese sailors killed by an atomic explosion in the Pacific. The president said that "in that instance the United States maintained that there was no system of assigning blame that could justify claims of that type." He therefore asked: "Was the past position held by the United States, the possible claimant, consistent with the claim which it is now filing against Mexico?"

The president added that he does not believe that "something so elementary" could be a maneuver to force Mexico to sell its gas to the United States at a favorable price. Instead, he said that he believes it is a case of internal pressure within the northern neighbor. Lopez Portillo said: "This gives me the impression that it is an attempt to publicize the U.S. position, but that does not soften my position."

On the other hand, the president said that the issue of the alleged suit will not cause him to change his position that oil should be the patrimony and responsibility of all humanity, a thesis which he will present to the United Nations on 27 September. "This confirms the need to establish a general shared responsibility. Situations of this type confirm the thesis we will present to the United Nations," he concluded. Lopez Portillo also indicated that he may cancel his meeting with U.S. President Jimmy Carter, which is scheduled for 24 and 25 September in Washington.

LOPEZ PORTILLO MEETING WITH CARTER NOW IN DOUBT

PA252126 Paris AFP in Spanish 1811 GMT 25 Aug 79 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 25 Aug (AFP)--On the basis of President Jose Lopez Portillo's statement yesterday, the Mexican press today questioned whether or not his meeting slated for next month with U.S. President Jimmy Carter will actually take place.

Under the headline "JLP Doubts He Will Meet Carter," the newspaper UNO MAS UNO quotes the president as saying: "I heard that some doubts exist. I believe the purpose of such a meeting is good, and so is our talking about current matters--if in fact there is anything to talk about. We will see."

The media was speculating on Mexico's possible doubts about the meeting after the United States made a claim for damages the Ixtoc Uno spill has allegedly caused along its coasts and after Mexico flatly refused to discuss indemnity.

EXCELSIOR's banner headline carries a Lopez Portillo statement: "Let Us See If There Are Topics for Dialog With Carter." EL DIA, for its part, also quotes the president in its banner headline: "We Will Confront Whatever Comes Our Way, However it Comes," it reads.

All papers also publish Lopez Portillo's response when asked if the present conflict with the United States will alter the energy policy he will discuss at the United Nations. According to Lopez Portillo, "This, on the contrary, confirms the need to establish a general, shared responsibility." Lopez Portillo is scheduled to address the General Assembly on 27 September. He will probably meet Carter on the 28th.

PARTIES CALL FOR WITHDRAWAL OF KRUEGER APPROVAL

PA260103 Paris AFP in Spanish 2017 GMT 25 Aug 79 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 25 Aug (AFP)--Seven political parties, including the governing Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), today requested that Mexico withdraw its approval of U.S. Special Ambassador Robert Krueger.

The request, voiced in statements and communiques by party spokesmen and organizations, follows the announcement made by Krueger Thursday to the effect that the United States plans to seek indemnity from Mexico for alleged damage caused by an oil spill from Ixtoc Uno.

In addition to the PRI, the National Action, Popular Socialist, Communist, Workers Socialist and Mexican Democratic Parties and the Authentic Party of the Mexican Revolution based their request on "the unilateral attitude taken by the United States in negotiations for gas and oil." The parties also object to Krueger's conduct, "which reflects the fact that the old big stick policy has reappeared in U.S. attitudes toward weaker countries," the parties stated. The parties noted that "only 3 weeks ago Krueger himself said the United States would not make claims for possible damage caused by the oil spill."

NICARAGUAN JUNTA MEMBERS TO VISIT 30 AUG

PA241820 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0830 GMT 23 Aug 79 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 24 Aug (EFE)--Mexico's official television station announced here last night that Nicaraguan Government of National Reconstruction members Sergio Ramirez Mercado and Daniel Ortega Saavedra will arrive in Mexico 30 August.

According to the newscast "Siete Dias," the Nicaraguan leaders will visit Mexico at President Jose Lopez Portillo's invitation. The 3-day visit will be regarded as an official visit by the chiefs of state, the program added. The station also announced that poet-priest Ernesto Cardenal and Father Miguel d'Escoto, Nicaraguan culture and foreign ministers, respectively, will also visit.

The reconstruction government members will meet with President Lopez Portillo, Foreign Secretary Jorge Castaneda, members of the Committee for Reconstruction of Nicaragua and the national press. The visitors will also be present at Lopez Portillo's presentation of his third government report on 1 September and will visit several points of interest in the capital. The Nicaraguan rulers will leave on 1 September for Havana, where they will participate in the nonalined summit, the official television report concluded.

COMMENTATOR TERMS GOVERNMENT'S FOREIGN POLICY 'A DISGRACE'

PA240409 Panama City Radio Hogar in Spanish 1700 GMT 23 Aug 79 PA

[Lucho Pimentel commentary]

[Excerpts] What the Association of Gasoline Distributors [ADIGAS] has failed to say is that the national government has not obtained sufficient petroleum supplies for the Panama refinery. The reason is that the national government does not have any money to buy more petroleum. That is why there is no gasoline and there is rationing.

What ADIGAS doesn't say is that every 3 days the national government is sending a ship filled with refined fuels--bunkered diesel and gasoline--to Nicaragua. This is paid for by the national government. ADIGAS does not say this. ADIGAS fails to say that the Panama refinery, an instrument of the national government, every day fills three or four ships of Fidel Castro's communist government. It is sending gasoline to Cuba at the expense of Panamanians. ADIGAS does not say this. But ADIGAS goes on strike so that the Panamanian people will suffer from the communist and Marxist policy of the national government. That is why you see them as husband and wife. Of course, the husband is the government. That is why you see ADIGAS in perfect union with the national government because the only thing that the ADIGAS members want is nationalization of the petroleum companies so that they will be the owners of the gasoline stations. That is what they believe since ADIGAS has a Marxist leadership. They think they are going to get the stations as gifts.

ADIGAS says nothing at all about all the gifts that General Torrijos took to Nicaragua, all the vehicles, cars and medicine he took. It also says nothing about the 300 soldiers who are in Nicaragua serving the interests of international communism with the Sandinists.

Gentlemen, this country is a big circus where the main performers are a bunch of communists and the Panamanian people are supposed to put up with this. A closed station should be a burned station. No Panamanian should put up with this. It is an attack on the dignity of Panamanians. It is an attack on democracy and free enterprise. This bunch of irresponsible people are affecting our health and the free development of economic activities in the country. They contribute to the government's procommunist line.

The ADIGAS members back the foreign policy of President Royo. President Royo is unaware of Panama's main aspirations regarding the Canal Zone. He negotiated the treaty behind the people's back. The logical consequence of the treaty that will soon be implemented is that the policy of giving away and distributing our natural resources to the world will continue. That is the climate they are preparing for international communism. A subjugated and poor country is the perfect place for the birth of international communist trends. When President Royo gives away our natural resources, he should submit this to the approval of the country. He cannot go to Colombia as he did. He went to Colombia to give away free passage to the Gran Colombia Fleet. That fleet is one of the biggest in the world. The Colombian war fleet will also be able to pass through free here. That is what he went to do in Monteria.

When Roldos was president-elect of Ecuador he came to Panama and President Royo asked him to grant a special petroleum price to Panama. Roldos said: Besides the fact that we cannot lower the price, my dear President Royo, we are going to reduce the supplies, and I am very angry because I know that on 1 October as soon as you create the canal commission you are going to increase canal tolls and this is a threat to the development of Ecuador's economic activites. [Words indistinct] as a gift as to Colombia and Costa Rica. Why? Because our foreign policy is a disgrace.

SERVICE STATION OPERATORS AGREE TO LIFT STRIKE

PA241956 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 24 Aug 79 PA

[Telephone report by Jose Hernandez]

[Excerpt] Following a 3-hour meeting this morning at the office of Commerce and Industries Minister Oscar Osorio, it was agreed to lift as of 1800 today the strike that had been declared by the gasoline station owners. The agreement was reached 25 hours after the declaration of the strike and after discussing the problems that prompted the operators to declare a nationwide strike. The decision will be communicated within the next few hours to the gasoline distribution centers, and particularly to oil companies in Panama, who will be briefed on the official mechanism that will apply nationwide and to stations to enforce the 10-percent cutback in fuel sales announced last week by the government.

PRD PRESIDENT GONZALEZ DISCUSSES FIRST PARTY CONGRESS

PA270034 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 26 Aug 79 pp 1-A, 6-A PA

[Excerpts] The Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD) is carrying out intense activities in all its centers throughout the country. There is excitement among the various work groups and meetings are continuously taking place at PRD headquarters in the republic's capital. The party is getting ready for the forthcoming celebration of its first national congress on 21 September. This congress will be the PRD's most important constituent event.

It was in one of these busy PRD centers where we had the opportunity to interview Gerardo Gonzalez, provisional president of the PRD.

The reasons why we are so busy, Gonzalez noted, are several. First of all, he explained, this is the largest political party in the country's history. Many social groupings in the nation belong to this party. This is the party of peasants, workers, students, professionals, businessmen, housewives and so forth. It is made up of all the sectors interested in the continuity and deepening of the revolutionary process and in national independence and development.

On 2 September, Gonzalez stated, all PRD members in the nation will vote to elect their delegates to the congress. Once the delegates are elected, we will carry out provincial preparatory meetings to discuss extensively all the subjects to be deliberated upon at the congress. At these meetings, also called "little congresses," all the elected delegates will participate. They should present their points of view, proposals and recommendations in a broad debate. On 21 September, Gonzalez added, these meetings will culminate in the capital with the great event: the national congress, which will be held at the Nuevo Panama Gymnasium. There the final decisions will be made.

It is obvious that the congress will not be a 1-day meeting but at once a democratic and unifying process that is already involving the entire country, Gonzalez noted.

The PRD president added: Meanwhile, the work to organize the party's internal structures continues. This work will also continue uninterrupted after the congress.

As part of this organizational effort, on Sunday, 2 September, PRD members will be given their new identification cards. These cards will have a code number identifying each member. They will be issued to each member as he votes in the elections for delegates to the congress.

Gonzalez noted that the congress will discuss and approve the fundamental laws of the PRD. Therefore, he added, after the congress all organizational structures and procedures must be in line with agreements reached at the conference.

The present organization and leadership of the PRD is provisional. Once the congress approves the definite statutes of the party, the PRD must immediately comply with what was approved.

Gonzalez added: Delegates to the congress will also elect the members who will comprise the party's national leadership.

Gerardo Gonzalez concluded by stating: The first national congress of the PRD will be a historic milestone for our country. This congress will sum up the historic ideals of our people, who for more than a century have struggled to strengthen our national independence and for the integral development of all the sectors--especially the most humble--as well as for a dignified and prosperous fatherland for all Panamanians.

The PRD will be the popular instrument of struggle for those ideals, following the leadership of General Torrijos, Gonzalez stated. He concluded by noting: "This congress will seal the constitution of this powerful bulwark of our people. This will be the great historic responsibility of all participants."

LABOR FEDERATION ADOPTS ANTICOMMUNIST STAND

PA251817 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 22 Aug 79 pp 6-A, 7-A PA

[Resolution issued by Industrial Federation of Food, Beverage, Hotel and Related Workers; date not given--words in uppercase as published]

[Text] In view of the labor conflict that has arisen at the Bocas del Toro banana plantations, the Industrial Federation of Food, Beverage, Hotel and Related Workers (FITABHA) has decided to raise the following issue:

WHEREAS:

1. The democratic trade union movement of workers at the Bocas del Toro banana plantations [represented by] the Union of Chriqui Land Company Workers (SITRACHILCO) is facing the most difficult time in its history. It is struggling to rid itself of the meddling and infiltration of well-known trade union movement manipulators who follow foreign ideologies and promote confrontations in order to do away with the workers' social, economic and cultural gains.

2. The democratic labor organizations must let workers throughout the country know that the struggle of SITRACHILCO's proud leaders is based on mankind's most just cause--that of defending democratic principles as well as human and labor rights against advocates of class struggle, destruction of employment sources, political parties with foreign platforms, misuse of trade union funds, stagnation of social and economic development and constant unrest among workers.

3. The flamboyant leaders of the National Central of Panamanian Workers (CNTP), who expertly confuse the public, have mobilized all their local and international political cells due to their anguish and desperation at having lost control of the labor organizations. They can no longer dupe these organizations with their Marxist dialectics and the slogan of "A CLOSED ENTERPRISE IS A SEIZED ENTERPRISE". Their failures have been uncovered and they can no longer deceive the workers. They must now contend with a new, alert trade union leadership which the workers are ready to defend at all costs.

4. The CNTP has crippled LAS AMIGAS DEL PUEBLO) [supermarket chain] by declaring illegal strikes which could destroy a source of employment on which many workers and their families depend for their livelihood. It tried to do the same to EMPRESAS ROMERO In David, Chiriqui. After a 15-day strike, it obtained no benefits for the workers. Indeed, it made them lose 15 days of pay, further aggravating the plight of the workers' families.

5. The CNTP has repudiated the decision adopted by the workers--who constitute SITRACHILCO'S highest authority--at a general meeting held on 1 May 1979 to disaffiliate themselves from the Independent Labor Federation and the CNTP and to join the great labor family headed by the Confederation of Workers of the Republic of Panama (CTRP).

6. The CNTP has supported a minority in order to promote chaos, insecurity and division among the workers by calling meetings and adopting illegal decisions through Mafia-style methods. This shows that it lacks a sense of trade union or legal responsibility.

7. SITRACHILCO'S authorities--which were legally installed on 1 May 1979--were elected according to law and recognized by the Labor Ministry in democratic elections in which thousands of SITRACHILCO members participated.

IT IS RESOLVED

A. To support SITRACHILCO'S current leaders, who at this moment are confronting mankind's most deadly foe, i.e., communism, together with all forces represented by FITABHA through 20 affiliated unions and over 8,000 workers.

B. To condemn throughout the country the CNTP'S antilabor maneuvers against union rights, the right of self-determination, majority decisions, human rights and trade union democracy.

BRIEFS

AGREEMENT WITH GDR--A cultural and scientific agreement between the German Democratic Republic and Panama was signed yesterday at the Panamanian Foreign Ministry. It should improve friendly relations in the fields of education, science and culture. The agreement was signed by Panamanian Education Minister Gustavo Garcia de Paredes and Ambassador Peter Lorf. [Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 25 Aug 79 PA]

COSTA RICA

BILATERAL TRADE AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH NICARAGUA

PA240434 Paris AFP in Spanish 1959 GMT 23 Aug 79 PA

[Text] San Jose, 22 Aug (AFP)--On his return from Managua, Olmedo Castro, Costa Rican director general of integration, said today that Nicaragua will leave the Central American Common Market [CACM]. Olmedo based his statement on the fact that Nicaragua will be at a clear disadvantage if it stays in the CACM which establishes high protection for industrial products produced in the region.

It is believed here that the new Nicaraguan Government will give preference to bilateral agreements with the other Central American countries. One of these agreements has already been signed with Costa Rica. It establishes a $25 million line of credit in favor of Nicaraguan producers and a list of 91 articles which can be freely traded between the two countries. This trade will be carried out in accordance with the reciprocal treaty signed by Costa Rica and Nicaragua. It establishes the use of the offered credit when the trade balance favors Costa Rica. If this is not the case, Nicaraguans will have to pay off the difference in cash. The treaty will go into effect this week once trade and payment procedures have been perfected.

LA NACION DIRECTOR WARNS AGAINST NICARAGUAN PRESS LAW

PA270420 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2110 GMT 26 Aug 79 PA

[Excerpt] San Jose, 26 Aug (ACAN-EFE)--Guido Fernandez, vice president of the Freedom of the Press Committee of the Inter-American Press Association (IAPA), has characterized the law that regulates the journalistic profession and activities in Nicaragua as ambiguous and vague. The law has been in effect since 16 August.

In a lengthy analysis published today by the local daily LA NACION, of which Fernandez is director and executive vice president, the IAPA leader cautions against a possibly uncertain application of the law, deriving from the ambiguity and vagueness which he criticizes.

As Fernandez sees it, the law enacted by the junta of the Nicaraguan Government of National Reconstruction establishes a "very precarious framework for exercising the rights to criticize and to inform in a country that will need these if it is to take the democratic path to political, social and economic reconstruction."

Fernandez also warns against having a government official administer the statutes, as the law in question establishes, since this administrator "has in his hands a powerful tool of blackmail, and even of forced silence, that could be applied against any journalist who may want to investigate or question any policy or decision that may appear to him as contrary to the interests of the people."

After praising other aspects of the law that seek to impart a higher moral standard to publications, Fernandez states that he believes it inadvisable to make communications media obtain operating licenses. According to Fernandez, such an obligation "is the same as giving authorities the power to decide who can enjoy a right that the law clearly guarantees."

Fernandez also thinks it undesirable to force journalists to join a nonprofessional trade union before they can practice their profession.

SIMON BOLIVAR BRIGADE MEMBERS TO BE EXPELLED

PA260248 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 26 Aug 79 PA

[Text] A total of 25 guerrillas of the Simon Bolivar International Brigade who fought against the regime of ousted Nicaraguan President Anastasio Somoza and who were arrested here 15 days ago will probably be sent to Mexico next week. The guerrillas were expelled by the new Nicaraguan Government when brigade members began to form Trotskiyite labor unions and to cause problems for the Sandinist National Liberation Front. Nicaragua expelled them to Panama, but that country refused to accept them, whereupon they came here, where they were arrested as dangerous persons. The guerrillas were released today because the National Ecumenical Council pledged to take them out of the country. The council will make arrangements with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Costa Rica to send them to Mexico.

The group is made up of 17 Costa Ricans and 8 foreigners. The Costa Ricans will of course remain in our country, while the others will go to Mexico. Because it is a weekend, it has not yet been confirmed whether Mexico will accept them, but reports indicate that Mexico will almost certainly receive them as refugees. The members of the brigade who were expelled from Nicaragua range in age from 20 to 30 years and come from several countries. Authorities say there are 17 Costa Ricans, 4 Colombians, 1 Peruvian, 1 Chilean and 1 Bolivian. A Chilean who has been naturalized is included among the Costa Ricans. These mercenaries were released through the intervention of the Ecumenical Council, although they are required to report periodically to the authorities until they leave for Mexico or any other country which accepts them.

REPORTAGE ON DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH SOVIET UNION

Reported Recall of Moscow Diplomats

PA241729 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Aug 79 PA

[Text] Diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union began to deteriorate a few days ago when President Carazo linked the Soviets to the disturbances in the Atlantic port area. A report in congress yesterday that the administration had recalled its ambassador and consul from Moscow, along with their families, came as a surprise. It was stated in the Legislative Assembly yesterday that diplomatic relations with the USSR are suspended because we have no representative there.

According to the report, the executive branch will keep only an administrative officer in the Soviet Union as required by international treaties. Ambassador Luis Barahona Jimenez, who founded the Christian Democratic Party, is now on his way home, while the large Soviet mission in our country is expecting further government actions. According to the report, the executive branch is making overtures to national industrial groups by creating problems with the Soviet Embassy. It was stated yesterday that the administration is leaving relations suspended so that Costa Rican communists will be pressured into staying out of strikes.

Niehaus Denial of Report

PA241907 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 24 Aug 79 PA

[Text] Costa Rica's ambassador to the USSR, Dr Luis Barahona, has not been called home for consultations nor has there been any thought of withdrawing him, Acting Foreign Minister Bernd Niehaus pointed out this morning.

It is customary to recall ambassadors for consultations, but for the time being, even though a well-known situation arose at the USSR Embassy here, there has been no decision to recall him, he added. With regard to the withdrawal of the Costa Rican ambassador, there has been no thought of this possibility. Therefore, everything that has been reported to this effect is false, said Niehaus.

Possible Recall for Consultations

PA251340 Paris AFP in Spanish 0332 GMT 25 Aug 79 PA

[Text] San Jose, 24 Aug (AFP)--Costa Rican Ambassador to the Soviet Union Luis Barahona might be recalled for consultations, a foreign ministry spokesman today told this agency. Barahona's alleged presence in San Jose, which a local morning newspaper reported today, was denied by this source, which stressed the routine nature of a possible recall. The purpose of such an action would be to have Ambassador Barahona report to the Foreign Ministry on Costa Rica's relations with the USSR.

This morning the newspaper LA REPUBLICA speculated over the possibility that Costa Rica might withdraw its ambassador to Moscow. Asked about this, the Foreign Ministry merely reiterated that Barahona may be recalled for consultations, but this does not mean that other measures connected with relations between the two countries will be adopted.

This week the Costa Rican Government declared the first and second secretaries of the Soviet Embassy in San Jose personae non grata, accusing them of intefering in Costa Rica's domestic affairs. Meanwhile, the Foreign Ministry must still respond to the official party deputies, who asked to be told the exact number of Soviet diplomats accredited in this capital as well as their specific duties.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON LABOR CRISIS IN LIMON PROVINCE

Document on Ending Strike

PA241331 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 24 Aug 79 PA

[Document released by Federation of Workers of Limon]

[Text] Mr Rodrigo Carazo Odio, president of the republic. Dear Mr President: Because of the situation in the city of Limon as a result of the general strike decreed by the Federation of Workers of Limon [FETRAL], in order to reach a solution that will satisfy the needs of the striking workers and so the city may return to normal, we state and request the following:

1. The formation of a board of Limon notables composed of the following citizens: Father Alfredo Madrigal, Father David (Garrow), Prof Constantino Solano, Chamber of Commerce President Ruben (Acon), Rev Lloyd (Stennert), Capt Frederick King, Dr Domingo Arguello, Municipal President Manuel Chavez, and Prof Jorge (Winstin).

2. This board will act as liaison between the general strike committee and the government of the republic, its institutions and private and public enterprises directly involved. The workers, through the Federation of Workers of Limon, will order the lifting of the strike as soon as the government accepts this proposal and a return to work. Immediately after the strike is called off, the interested parties will initiate talks to solve the points at issue. [as heard--San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish at 1200 GMT on 24 August carries a report on this document stating that Point 3 says "there will be direct negotiations as soon as the strike is lifted but the government must first agree to mediation."]

The Civil Guard units sent to Limon will withdraw and the Civil Guard authorities of Limon will be in charge of security duties.

5. All persons under arrest will be immediately put at the disposal of courts of justice. Persons under arrest and against whom the courts have not issued an arrest warrant, a bill of indictment, or charged to preventive custody after verification of participation in criminal activities will be immediately released.

6. The central government, its institutions and the public and private enterprises guarantee that no reprisals will be taken against any of the workers employed by any of the companies affected by the strike, or against labor leaders and their advisers, or against ordinary citizens who may have helped them in their participation in the strike.

Likewise, civil, labor, penal and, in general, criminal and civil suits against these persons, or their organizations for their participation in the strike will be withdrawn--except legal proceedings already filed--and there will be no action taken against them in the future.

7. When work starts again, all workers who participated in the strike will retain their labor rights just as they enjoyed them at the beginning of the movement and with the same legal and administrative status.

8. Public and private enterprises will pay workers their entire weekly, biweekly or monthly salary, by the hour or by performance in the usual manner. The workers will be paid estimated on the basis of a half-day for each month they have worked. As a result of the negotiations noted in Article 3 [as heard] of this document, deductions will begin with the forthcoming salary increase.

9. FETRAL, the mediation board, the central government and the institutions are aware that there are a number of social and economic problems in the Limon community and that coordinated efforts must be made to solve them. This should include a phase that will begin immediately after the present conflict is solved.

10. A deadline of no more than 1 month of negotiations after the signing of this document is established for the purpose of finding an effective solution to all the problems. By the time of the deadline the final resolution must have been signed. If there is no definite agreement, but if effective solutions are in the making when the deadline expires, the parties can negotiate a new reasonable time period or submit the situation to arbiters.

With regard to matters that have already been resolved and to noncompliance with articles and clauses of collective contracts and agreements, their application will begin within 15 days.

11. On behalf of the labor unions affiliated with FETRAL, we want to return to normal as soon as possible, and thus we make a final request as part of this document. We ask the government to produce a legal satisfactory solution, thus effectively complying with Article 14 of the convention signed by the Port Administration Board for the Economic Development of the Atlantic Coast and [word indistinct] on 7 October 1975.

12. For all effects, the board named here will be guarantor of what has been agreed there because of its status as liaison between the labor unions, the government, the autonomous institutions and the private enterprises concerned.

This document is signed by the nine members of the board of Limon notables, the members of FETRAL and some secretaries general of the labor unions that were on strike.

Carazo on Lessons of Strike

PA241551 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Aug 79 PA

[Text] Voicing his gladness that peace has been restored with the lifting of the Limon strike, President Rodrigo Carazo appealed to Costa Ricans to defend our institutions. When the end of the strike was reported yesterday, Carazo said the Costa Rican people must learn from this experience. This strike has taught us a very important lesson because it is clear that it was not motivated by labor interests. It was shown satisfactorily by the statement issued at the end of the strike and the government's official explanations to the nation that the strike was politically motivated. We have also noticed how violence is being intensified, which forces us to think, President Carazo added. He said the country's problems are serious, as they are all over the world, particularly in the smaller nations. Therefore, the people and their leaders have the enormous duty to face these problems seriously and responsibly rather than in the blithe and irresponsible style of staging a strike for just any reason. However, Carazo said, the important thing is that common sense brought a happy ending to a process that many wanted to muddle.

As government leader, I want to tell Costa Ricans that we are very happy that peace has been restored, Carazo said. However, he said, the responsibility of keeping the peace compels us to see to it that each national institution is respected and cared for. We must not toy with our institutions. We must not place the national interest below interests of secondary importance and we must not forget that anything that harms human life is out of the question. The president went on to say that this strike has taught us many lessons. The political involvement and snipers have given us reason for sorrow but have helped the union leaders reach positive conclusions. These leaders realized during the dispute that they were being used, and so I am happy to see that they have been considerate and responsible enough to think things over and find a solution. The democratic labor movement leaders have surely had an opportunity to ponder what we have been through in the past few days, Carazo said.

REPORTAGE ON PERSONNEL CHANGE IN LABOR MINISTRY

Estela Quesada Resignation

PA250221 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 25 Aug 79 PA

[Text] Labor Minister Estela Quesada Hernandez resigned from the Carazo Cabinet shortly after 1300 today. Her resignation was submitted irrevocably. In a subsequent communique, the president announced that he had accepted the minister's resignation, after thanking her for her valuable services to the country. The labor minister submitted her irrevocable resignation in a letter to the president in which she also thanked him for his words of praise, which she described as undeserved and generous.

German Serrano Pinto Appointment

PA252016 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 25 Aug 79 PA

[Excerpts] The appointment of German Serrano Pinto as new labor minister was officially announced this morning at the Presidential House. President Carazo announced his appointment less than 24 hours after Estela Quesada tendered her resignation. The new minister's appointment took most people by surprise since President Carazo said yesterday he had not yet thought about Quesada's replacement.

Vice President Jose Miguel Alfaro will be acting labor minister until German Serrano Pinto concludes his current activities as executive president of the National Security Institute. Serrano Pinto is expected to take office in 2 or 3 weeks.

EL SALVADOR

CDH DIFFERS WITH PRESIDENT ON EXISTENCE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS

PA250125 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1808 GMT 24 Aug 79 PA

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 24 Aug (ACAN-EFE)--The Salvadoran Human Rights Committee [CDH] said here today that there are political prisoners in the country and that it has a list of prisoners and missing persons. President Carlos Humberto Romero recently declared that there are no political prisoners in this Central American republic. He invited the International Red Cross to verify the truth of his statement throughout El Salvador. In an open letter released today, the CDH said that, along with the Inter-American Human Rights Committee, it has "irrefutable proof" of the existence of political prisoners, "as it has stated in its report" on El Salvador. The committee calls for the release of persons arrested for ideological reasons and information on those who have died and the location of their remains in order that relatives may be informed.

LEFTIST GROUP ENDS OCCUPATION OF SANTA ANA CATHEDRAL

PA250357 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0015 GMT 25 Aug 79 PA

[Text] Santa Ana, El Salvador, 24 Aug (ACAN-EFE)--Members of the 28 February Popular Leagues (LP-28) this afternoon ended their occupation of the cathedral of Santa Ana, the country's second most important city, 66 km west of here. The LP-28 members said they occupied the church on 12 August to demand union freedom, an end to political arrests and the release of one of their comrades. The occupation ended with a march through the city's main streets. Activists of the leftist group continue to occupy the church of San Francisco in San Miguel as well as churches in Usulutan and San Vicente.

FPL KILLS TWO POLICEMEN; NINE BODIES FOUND

PA242151 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1833 GMT 24 Aug 79 PA

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 24 Aug (LATIN)--Eleven deaths, two of them commanders of police patrols, added today to the violence which, along with a wave of labor discontent, is shaking El Salvador. Nine bodies with bullet wounds were found today 72 km north of San Salvador in the jurisdictions of the towns of La Reina, La Palma and Tejutla, judicial sources reported. The sources added that the identity of those responsible for this new multiple assassination is unknown. The extreme leftist Farabundo Marti Popular Liberation Forces (FPL) today claimed responsibility for killing two patrol commanders in the jurisdiction of Tecoluca, San Vicente Department, 65 km east of here. An FPL communique identified the dead men as Valentin Juarez, patrol chief of Tecoluca, and Ambrosio Martinez, patrol chief of El Calvario neighborhood in Tecoluca. An FPL pamphlet left at the site of Martinez' assassination said: "We killed this servile man because he did not work for the people's interests."

Meanwhile, 30 striking workers of the Apex textile factory, whose hostages include General Manger William Boorstein, a U.S. citizen, demanded that the Salvadoran press republish a communique of their union because the previous one was published incomplete and with mistakes. They promised to release the executive if this is done.

LEFTISTS VOW TO AVENGE UGB KILLINGS

PA261955 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2328 GMT 25 Aug 79 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 25 Aug (ACAN-EFE)--The clandestine Revolutionary People's Army (ERP) announced here today that it will avenge killings by the rightist White Warriors Union (UGB). The clandestine UGB has been killing suspected ultraleftist activitists and their collaborators. The death toll already exceeds 60, involving mostly teachers and university students. This is the first reaction from an ultraleftist group since the rash of actions against their activists started. The ERP communique also reveals some details of the 4 August assassination of priest Alirio Macias in front of the main altar of his church in San Esteban Catarina, in El Salvador's central region. The violent incident, which the ERP blames on an army officer, is being investigated on direct instructions from President Carlos Humberto Romero, who described it as "dreadful." Macias' violent death gave rise to a public protest from his fellow priests in all Salvadoran dioceses and a letter by them to Pope John Paul II.

ARCHBISHOP DENOUNCES 'CLANDESTINE CIVIL WAR'

PA261903 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1634 GMT 26 Aug 79 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 26 Aug (ACAN-EFE)--The archbishop of San Salvador, Msgr Oscar Arnulfo Romero, during Sunday mass today in San Salvador Cathedral, charged that a "clandestine civil war is underway in which no consideration is being paid to the harm we are inflicting upon ourselves." The church official condemned the actions of leftwing groups and what he described as repression unleashed in the countryside by the security corps and the army. He mentioned murders committed earlier this week by groups of the Revolutionary People's Army (ERP) and the Farabundo Marti Popular Liberation Forces (FPL). He also denounced military operations by the security corps in the jurisdiction of Aguilares, some 30 km north of San Salvador. He said the security corps had destroyed the Tres Ceibas Canton School, set fire to the house of Luz Rivera de Calles and committed other repressive actions. Monsignor Romero added that on 15 August medical personnel and members of other corps arrived to offer assistance and courses to the inhabitants but at the same time imposed a curfew after midnight. On 17 August they set off several bombs in the mountains where peasants had taken refuge because they feared to return home. It is strange, he said. They come as benefactors carrying medicines and promoting cultural activities while on the other hand they mistreat and kill, the archbishop added. He criticized the additional 52 million colones ($20.8 million) approved by the Legislative Assembly for the Defense Ministry. He said the money was obtained by reducing funds for the ministries of education, planning, public works, interior, justice and other government institutions.

GUATEMALA

INTEGRATION OFFICIAL DENIES NICARAGUA LEAVING COMMON MARKET

PA242340 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1943 GMT 24 Aug 79 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 24 (ACAN-EFE)--Raul Sierra, secretary general of the Secretariat of Central American Economic Integration [SIECA], said here today that Nicaragua is remaining in the Central American Common Market [CACM]. He added that trade relations between Nicaragua and the other Central American countries continue within the regional community process. Sierra Franco made the statement in reference to a press report from San Jose which indicated that Costa Rican integration director Olmedo Castro said that "Nicaragua will leave the CACM." "I spoke over the telephone with Olmedo Castro this morning and he told me that he had not made such a statement," the SIECA secretary added.

HONDURAS

FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSSES DIFFERENCES WITH EL SALVADOR

PA250110 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1641 GMT 24 Aug 79 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 24 Aug (ACAN-EFE)--Honduran Foreign Affairs Minister Eliseo Perez Cadalso today said that differences with El Salvador are not only over the border issue but also the Central American Common Market. This he said in reference to statements made recently by Salvadoran Foreign Affairs Minister Jose Antonio Rodriguez Porth, who said that between the two countries there existed only the border problem. The Honduran foreign minister reiterated that so far no agreement had been reached between the two countries on the way in which the Central American Common Market is going to be restructured. Regarding the possibility of taking the case to The Hague International Court, as Salvadoran Foreign Affairs Minister Rodriguez Porth suggested, Perez Cadalso said that this might be possible inasmuch as The Hague International Court is recognized throughout the world as an honest, ethical and legal institution. Perez Cadalso added that problems which cannot be solved through mediation or cause judicial controversy should be submitted to The Hague International Court.

NICARAGUA

REPORTAGE ON VOIDING OF LARGE DENOMINATION PAPER MONEY

PA251542 Paris AFP in Spanish 1003 GMT 25 Aug 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 25 Aug (AFP)--The Nicaraguan junta of reconstruction last night decided to void all 500 and 1,000 cordoba paper money ($50 and $100), most of which was taken out of the country 1 month ago, when President Ansastasio Somoza's regime fell. Those in Nicaragua who have that type of currency must go to the banks today and tomorrow to receive bonds of the equivalent value. Their money will be reimbursed in 6 months at an 8 percent interest, after a research as to its origin has been conducted. In order to prevent the massive return of cordobas taken out of the country, all borders, ports and airports will remain closed to traffic during the weekend. The Sandinist army meanwhile has been alerted to preserve order during this vast operation which will surely mobilize thousands of persons. Last night a junta spokesman explained on radio and television that these measures are aimed at "punishing" Somozists who escaped from the country carrying in their suitcases the money deposited in the banks and at fighting the black market. The Somozist leaders left only $2.5 million in the Central Bank's vaults and even the plates to print money allegedly were taken out of the country. According to junta member Sergio Ramirez, the clandestine return of that money to Nicaragua is affecting the country's economy. Central Bank President Arturo Cruz said exiled Somozists are on the verge of making Nicaraguan currency collapse because they are selling huge amounts of cordobas abroad at the rate of 50 cordobas to $1, while the official exchange rate is only 10 to 1.

Army Order To Implement Decree

PA251806 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1510 GMT 25 Aug 79 PA

[Order of the General Command of the Sandinist People's Army related to decree of the junta of national reconstruction on cordoba notes, read by Commander in Chief Humberto Ortega Saavedra--recorded]

[Text] Sandinist People's Army, General Command:

The General Command of the Sandinist army, in order to insure compliance with the decree of the junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, orders all forces of the nation:

1. To offer whatever forces are necessary to maintain order.

2. To see to it that there is no disorder in the banking institutions so that the public may confidently make their deposit of 500 and 1000 cordoba bills.

3. To coordinate with the managers or other officials responsible for the banking institutions, to see that this activity is carried out quickly and effectively, both inside and outside the installations.

4. To suspend vehicular traffic on the streets around the banks in order to facilitate access to these banks.

5. To guarantee that only [word indistinct] persons will have access to banks.

6. To detain undisciplined elements who affect normal services to the public.

7. To institute patrols both (?on foot) and by vehhile to avert assaults or other criminal acts against citizens who come to deposit their money.

8. To guarantee the free access of citizens who come from different towns or areas to the banks where they must make deposits.

9. To insure that all persons make their deposits in the nearest departmental branches.

10. To guarantee the effective closure of airports, ports and land frontiers of the nation during the time stipulated in the decree.

11. All militia forces are to remain quartered during 25 and 26 August for the duration of the financial operation. They must not mobilize, unless at the orders of their regional superiors.

Read in this city of Managua on 24 August 1979.

[Signed] Humberto Ortega Saavedra, commander in chief of the Sandinist People's Army.

Leaders' Explanation of Decree

PA251953 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1510 GMT 25 Aug 79 PA

[Alfonso Robelo, member of the junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, Dr Arturo Cruz, president of the Central Bank and Commander Tomas Borge, member of the General Command of the Sandinist People's Army, explain 24 August decree voiding bank bills--recorded]

[Text] [Alfonso Robelo] I wish to take this opportunity to explain briefly to all my Nicaraguan comrades the significance of this decree so that you will clearly understand it. Since there is a series of bills--only of 500 and 1,000 cordobas--in the hands of Somozists outside Nicaragua and [words indistinct] bills which are not going to [words indistinct] in this normal process, we have decided that this weekend--tomorrow, Saturday [26 August]--we are going to exchange all of these 500 and 1,000-cordoba bills by having them taken to the banks, for a certificate or a deposit document.

These bills will then be studied to learn their origin. After their origin has been quickly investigated, the bills will remain in the possession of the state for 6 months during which interest will be paid as though the money were in a savings account, or even at higher interest. At the end of 6 months, the money will be returned in the form of bills of equal value, but in other denominations. It will be the same amount received by the banks, but will be returned [words indistinct].

In order to execute this, tomorrow Saturday and on Sunday, some banks will be open [words indistinct]. For this, there will be protection so that all citizens, all Nicaraguans who have these bills--only 500 and 1000 cordoba bills--may go to these banks and receive these certificates in order to recover their money later. I would like to repeat the list of banks so that you will know where you must go. Here in Managua, use the Central Bank. Likewise, here in Managua you can go to the National Development Bank--to all branches to the National Development Bank. The old National Bank is now called National Development Bank. There is one on the Masaya Highway, one in the Managua [word indistinct], likewise in all the branches across the nation, including the branches of the National Development Bank in [words indistinct]. Therefore, on this day, [word indistinct] so that all peasants who have this type of bill will go to those branches. The Banco Nicaraguense will also operate its main office here in Managua which is on the Masaya Highway, and in all its branches both in Managua and in Leon, Chinandega, Granada, Masaya and Diriamba. The Bank of America, also in its main office here in Managua [words indistinct] in Managua and its branches both in Managua and in Leon, Chinandega, Granada, Masaya and [words indistinct]. The Banco de Centroamerica, in its main office here in Managua and its branch office in [name indistinct]. The central banks may also name other branches or offices where the exchange may be carried out.

Of course, these bills are not going to lose value. They are only going to be exchanged for a certificate which, after 6 months, is going to be again converted into money, but they will be gaining more interest during those 6 months. This interest will be 8 percent a year.

These are more or less the important highlights. Regarding the hours, it will be tomorrow Sunday, excuse me tomorrow Saturday from 0900 to 1900 for Managua. In the rest of the nation, in addition to Saturday, these exchanges may also be made on Sunday. The hours for Sunday will be 0900 to 1800 nonstop. I repeat that in Managua, the exchanges can be made only on Saturday. In the rest of the nation, since travel is more difficult, they can be made both on Saturday, 25 August, and Sunday, 26 August.

You may exchange bills--whether you held them in safekeeping, have them for personal use or they belong to companies or groups. You are going to fill a form and very simply explain--you will be assisted by bank personnel--how you obtained the money. This is control purposes. All persons who obtained the money in a legal and honest way have no reason to fear. We are only trying to defend the people of Nicaragua from foreigners, and from Somozists who took all this money and who could later harm us.

With us here to make a brief explanation is Comrade Arturo Jose Cruz, who is president of the Central Bank, and Comrade Tomas Borge, who is interior minister but who is with us at this time in his capacity as commander of the Sandinist People's Army. Both will also give explanations to that everybody will remain calm and clearly understand what we are going to do with the 500 or 1000 cordoba bills this weekend.

Perhaps Comrade Arturo would like to add something which Commander Tomas Borge can then complement. [end Robelo]

[Cruz] I wish to add that this measure, which becomes necessary [words indistinct] to defend the interests of the people of Nicaragua.

It has been estimated that between 150 and 200 million cordobas were taken abroad by the Somozists. [Words indistinct] of our national currency because we know that transactions have been made of up to 50 cordobas for $1. The interests of honest citizens are being defended. In the first place, the interest that is going to be paid--8 percent--is 1 percent higher than the interest paid in savings accounts and half a percent more than what is paid at fixed-term deposits.

In addition, we will take into account very special cases. The decree states that under very special circimstances where for reasons beyond their control which are totally substantiated persons were unable to come to the banks during the hours and on days stipulated, that is, tomorrow and the day after tomorrow, they have up to 7 days to have their cases heard by a committee that is going to operate in the Central Bank. [end Cruz]

[Borge] Well now, after these explanations by Comrades Robelo and Cruz, we wish to point out the following:

To further explain what Commander Humberto Ortega said, the army will be at the service of the government and the bank, both to keep order and to defend the people. It is important to point out to all combatants that they must keep order, but of course, Sandinist-style, with the courtesy and amiability that characterizes them.

In addition, no members of the army are authorized under any circumstance to requisition [requisar] money, except if so ordered by the bank in exceptional cases. Thus, nobody, except for the manager of the bank or the competent bank or government authority, must take money away, even in those localities where there exists [words indistinct] highway between departments.

While the people are [words indistinct] give guarantee and go to banks to exchange their 1,000 and 500-cordoba bills. But they may not travel from department to department. Thus, persons circulating from department to department for other reasons will have their [words indistinct] to prevent the Somozists. [transmission of recording is interrupted at this point]

Special Treatment for Small Depositors

PA261913 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1446 GMT 26 Aug 79 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 26 Aug (ACAN-EFE)--By decision of the junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, banks will remain open today, Sunday, to continue receiving canceled bills from the public.

At the last minute it was learned from a reliable source that persons who have deposits sums not exceeding 5,000 cordobas ($500) will receive special treatment. It was announced that the origin of the bills will be investigated and, if it is determined that they were obtained lawfully, the total amount deposited--not exceeding 5,000 cordobas--will be returned to its owner. In this way the government is responding to protests from isolated individuals who have stashed away less than $500 in bills of 1,000 or 500 cordobas.

Meanwhile, the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) has expressed full support for the measure adopted by the junta. In a communique issued yesterday afternoon, the FSLN says that cancellation of the bills in the aforementioned denominations "diminishes the possibility of their being used to finance any counterrevolution."

The slogan used by the FSLN to make the people deposit their bills in the banks is "Take Away From Somozism What Belongs to the People."

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON CUBAN DELEGATION VISIT

Meeting With Ramirez, Ortega, Tunnerman

FI241039 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 24 Aug 79 FL

[Text] The Nicaraguan national reconstruction junta government has held talks on Thursday, 23 August, with Jose Ramon Fernandez, Cuban vice president of the Council of Ministers, and Fernando Vecino Alegret, minister of higher education of our country, both members of the PCC Central Committee. Present for the Nicaraguan side at these talks were members of the government junta Sergio Ramirez and Commander Daniel Ortega, who is also member of the Sandinist National Liberation Front Joint National Directorate, and Education Minister Carlos Tunnerman.

Book Exhibit on Cuban Education

FI241117 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 24 Aug 79 FL

[Text] A book exhibit on education improvement in Cuba was inaugurated yesterday morning, 23 August. It was organized by the Nicaraguan Education Ministry and the Nicaraguan National Association of Educators and was attended by the visiting Cuban delegation and other Nicaraguan officials. The exhibit, which is based on the first donation of Cuban books on pedagogy which were sent over recently, was decorated with Nicaraguan and Sandinist National Liberation Front insignias and pictures of Fidel and Ernesto Che Guevara.

In brief remarks Jose Ramon Fernandez said that these books recount important parts of our pedagogical experiences. And he added that if these experiences and our aid can serve for something in the glorious experience which today begins in Nicaragua, they will be put completely into the service of the Nicaraguan people.

Nicaraguan Education Minister Carlos Tunnerman responded by expressing his satisfaction that this first event carried out by the Education Ministry and the teachers' association was to learn about the experiences of a fraternal people which made education the first priority task, as we will do.

Fernandez Lectures on Education

FI251201 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 25 Aug 79 FL

[Text] In Managua the Cuban delegation headed by Council of Ministers Vice President Jose Ramon Fernandez has given a lecture on education in Cuba with the aid of films, statistics and a question-and-answer session. A large crowd gathered at the Ruben Dario Hall of the Nicaragua Libre Hotel for the 2-hour lecture, which was also attended by Nicaragua's Public Education Minister Carlos Tunnerman who praised the results of the development of education in Cuba.

Films and statistics on the Cuban educational system in general and on higher education were shown, provoking the praise and applause of the Nicaraguan teachers and professors attending the lecture. Fernandez said that the Cubans display those gains with great revolutionary pride and not vanity, but that such a goal can be attained with a revolution, with a revolutionary people.